



TOUCAN TALK

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hat a special moment it was when our zoo reopened on Friday, December 18. I was there at 9:30 a.m. as the zoo staff unlocked the gate and welcomed us in. For most people, it was their first time at the zoo since Hurricane Andrew blasted through on August 24. Some were shocked. Others were just thrilled to be able to get back in.

Like so many of my fellow visitors, I had badly missed our zoo. I enjoyed talking with others that day who were eager to experience it again. They had missed the simple but total joy of seeing their favorite animals such as lowland gorillas, playful chimps, or the ever graceful family of giraffes and their hurricane baby, "Hope." I had missed "Mohan", the fabulous armor-plated Indian rhino who is my personal favorite, the secretary birds, and the siamangs, other favorites of mine because they help the zoo sound like what I've always thought a zoo should sound like.

I was proud of all the staff and docents who cared enough to be there welcoming visitors back. Also on hand were members of the Herpetological Society of Miami who had brought an exciting collection of snakes, chameleons and other reptiles that absolutely fascinated visitors.

The next day, Saturday, Dec. 19, 6,000 people came to the zoo. On Sunday, over 12,000 people poured in to see how our zoo was recovering from Andrew. These were some of the largest single-day crowds ever at the zoo. From the 18th through the end of December, the zoo had some 49,000 visitors; close to a record turnout for a 14-day period. This wonderful response clearly showed how important the zoo is to the people of South Florida.

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On the Cover

Our beautiful flamingos have returned thanks to early contributions to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. Your continued support is needed to bring about the speedy return of our other winged friends.

Cover photo by Steve Walker

Still Much To Do

As many visitors discovered, the zoo we found on December 18 was not the same zoo we had known on August 23. No aviary. No koalas. No monorail. No lush canopy of shade trees that had been there before. Most of the bird collection and many mammals were dispersed throughout Florida at other zoos for safekeeping during reconstruction.

Gradually, zoo director **Bob Yokel** and his dedicated staff are reassembling the collection. In late January, the flamingos returned from **Busch Gardens** to resume their important and colorful role as greeters to our guests. The siamang exhibit has reopened and these delightful creatures are now back at their noisy best. The healing and rebuilding process is underway, but this is a massive undertaking.

There's still much to do. Our destroyed office building awaits an insurance settlement. Our rain forest project is on hold. But we have not been idle. Under the leadership of **Glenn Ekey** and **Cindy Zeigler** and members of our board of directors, we have been working at a frantic pace, encouraged by an unprecedented response from around the country. Thousands have responded to appeals for help for our stricken zoo. As a result, we already have been able to turn over a \$500,000 gift for repairs. The **Knight Foundation** announced a \$500,000 gift to rebuild the educational graphics and signs at the zoo. Our very good friend, **Austin Weeks**, pledged a personal gift of \$750,000 to help get things going again. Feast with the Beasts and many other events are happening. But this is only the beginning. We are committed to raising \$10 million to help rebuild the zoo and take the next steps toward transforming Metrozoo into one of the great zoos of the world. We'll keep you posted on our progress in future issues of *Toucan Talk*.

Your membership support is more critical than ever. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as you can. If you know other members who have not yet renewed, please urge them to do so. If you can help raise funds to replant our missing 5,000 trees, please let us know. Above all, we want to see you at the zoo, enjoying the collection and marveling at the diversity of God's creatures. Nothing will send a stronger signal of our intention to build a great zoo than seeing our members here, enjoying the zoo and witnessing its steady improvement. ■

by **Frank N. Hawkins Jr.**

The Herpetological Society of Miami proved the popularity of reptiles with their special exhibit on re-opening weekend. Two species in the zoo's permanent collection are the Galapagos tortoise and the leopard tortoise. Pictured are two specimens posed for this photograph. The larger is an adult Galapagos tortoise, the smaller a newly-hatched leopard tortoise. Although a full grown Galapagos tortoise weighs over 500 pounds, and a full grown leopard tortoise only around 50 pounds, their hatchlings are the same size. If you want to learn more about tortoises from the people who care for them at Metrozoo, visit the tortoise exhibit at feeding time: 3:00 p.m. daily. Keepers will be there to answer your questions.



Dolara Jung

Andrew As Opportunity

Metrozoo director Bob Yokel and Zoological Society director Glenn Ekey sit around Bob's desk, which is laden with paperwork that spills out onto a six-foot conference table. Rolls of blueprints, seven inches thick, attest to the accelerating process of putting donor contributions to work in the zoo. Down the corridor outside the office, where animal management staff have had temporary cubicles since last September, a radio sings that old hit, "in the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight." This seems symbolic of the increasing sense of order at Metrozoo as I ask Bob and Glenn for a status report.

"We've come a long way since last fall. For one thing, we're not carrying our own water into work," says Glenn, "we're not operating with only one telephone line and we don't have rain pouring into our offices."

"The Emergency Era ended around mid-November," adds Bob. "Now things are slowing down, we're getting back to normal."

Well, almost. Construction workers are throwing huge sections of mangled metal roofing onto the lawn outside the window. As each chunk hits the pile, the impact rattles the

windows and the crash startles me out of my seat. Bob and Glenn are unphased. It's music to them. It's the sound of rebuilding.

"Everybody wants to get things done so we can put this behind us," says Bob. "But we want to be as efficient and economical as possible with the resources our supporters are providing. When it's all over, we'll have a more efficient operation than before."

You could almost say that "opportunity" is the buzzword for rebuilding. In dozens of ways, the zoo will be a better place after Andrew.

Coming from a construction background, and having to balance human resources, financial resources and mechanization in day-to-day zoo operations, Bob is pleased with efficiencies that are being gained. Admissions, ticketing, membership and donation processing are improved, he points out, because old computers and software have been replaced with new. The **Maintenance Department** benefits from new equip-

ment like the Bobcat with a front end loader that was delivered a few weeks ago. The animal kitchen now operates more like an exotic catering operation with new dishwashers, industrial slicers and dicers and revamped food storage facilities. Bob observes that "our facilities were state of the art when they were built, which was 1972. But innovations, like automatic dry processing for X-rays in the animal clinic, weren't even available 20 years ago."

Glenn, who is responsible for managing the Zoo Rebuilding Fund among many other duties and whose background includes finance and fine arts, is charged with excitement about "one of the most beautiful ideas to come out of all this: The Avenue of the Giants."

The Avenue of the Giants is the brainchild of volunteer directors who envision transforming the zoo entry into a tree-lined boulevard, each tree representing a substantial contribution to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. As Glenn describes it, "this idea grew into a plan for a fabulous garden in which major donors at many levels can sponsor facets of a lush, magnificent transition from the everyday world into the park.

"We've benefited from the emotional response to Hurricane Andrew," he said, "and we've also built a strong case for support of the zoo through major gifts and endowments. The Avenue of the Giants will be the perfect place to honor our major donors in perpetuity."

And this plan dovetails nicely with Bob's focus on replanting the zoo. The process of shopping South Florida nurseries for the best trees and plants has begun, and despite the almost unbearable frustration of having to wait for advanced growth to return, Bob sees this as another area of . . . you guessed it.

"We definitely have an opportunity in the landscaping arena," says Bob. "We can plant a better caliber of trees, avoiding species that we've learned do not do well here. We've always had seasonal color, but now we are planning more areas with big splashes of color year-round. We've also added seven new rest areas and upgraded three others to provide shaded areas throughout the zoo."

Continued on next page



Prioritizing and allocating funds is a major challenge with so many areas still needing repair. Glenn Ekey and Bob Yokel in conference. -photo by Greg Hark



Zebu

Dolora Jung

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ZOO BIRTHS

**November 7, 1992 -
January 19, 1993**

Nyala <i>Tragelaphus angasi</i> Male	Nov. 7
Nyala <i>Tragelaphus angasi</i> Female	Nov. 26
Domestic Zebu <i>Dos primigenius indicus</i> Female	Dec. 7
Baird's Tapir <i>Tapirus bairdii</i> Female	Dec. 7
Malayan Tapir <i>Tapirus indicus</i> Male	Dec. 10
Nile Lechwe <i>Kobus megaceros</i> Female	Dec. 23
Indian Muntjac <i>Muntiacus muntjak vaginalis</i> Female	Dec. 26
Sable Antelope <i>Hippotragus niger</i> Male	Dec. 28
Red Kangaroo <i>Megaleia rufa</i> Sex undetermined	Dec. 29
Greater Kudu <i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i> Male	Jan. 5



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New Date For Gorilla Golf Classic

The Sixth Annual Metrozoo Gorilla Golf Classic will take place Wednesday, March 24, 1993. Tournament co-chairmen George Kunde and Bob Sprecher of Kunde Sprecher & Associates, Inc. and honorary chairman Bill Bird, director of park and recreation services for Dade County, have outdone themselves planning great prizes, a raffle, lunch and a cocktail party to follow the best ball four-some tournament.

Tee off is 12:30 p.m. at The Links at Key Biscayne. The cost is \$150 per golfer. Preregistration by March 17 is recommended. Call the special events department at 255-5551 for registration and sponsorship information.

Feeding Time

Every day there are regularly scheduled feeding times for tortoises and bears. Keepers bring the food out front so you can watch and ask questions. This is a great time to get a keeper's unique perspective on individual animals and learn more about animal care.



Keeper Scott Lincoln feeds oranges, apples and omnivore chow to the sun bears at noon daily, Himalayan black bears are fed at 2:00 p.m. daily. In the wild, bears forage for insects, berries, carrion, fish and small mammals. Asian species also go for bamboo shoots.

The giant land tortoises are fed at 3:00 p.m. daily. —photo by Greg Hark

Continued from the previous page

A big downer following Andrew is that, with the exception of the Cuban Parrot's Plaza, major new exhibits are on hold for at least the next year and a half. "There are too many other areas that have to get back on an even keel," Bob notes. But even this realization stimulates new visions for both men.

"I remember enjoying Wings of Asia about as much as anything," says Bob who looks forward to the time when the \$3 million needed to restore the aviary is raised. "We're all so impatient. The pace of life has made us this way and we're mostly not prepared to sit and wait for things to happen. But in the Wings of Asia, if you'd take fifteen minutes or half an hour and just sit there, the birds would come to you. You could hear many birds vocalize that you couldn't even see. Every exhibit doesn't have to be a multi-million dollar project to achieve that."

Only an expert contractor, like Bob, would be aware that new materials are available that allow construction of walk-through aviaries and walk-by

exhibits for small mammals that can be built more quickly and at a fraction of the cost of major structures. "These could fill in between our existing exhibits," he says. "They would be satisfying for visitors and would also be great for the animals."

Glenn concurs. "More and more we see zoos opening grand exhibits that are extremely costly to build and operate. The approach that Bob describes would allow us to build a more diverse collection, enrich the visitor experience, maybe bring in some of our endangered local species and get involved with those education, propagation and conservation efforts."

This doesn't mean there aren't grand plans for the future of Metrozoo, but it shows how the zoo's leaders are able to extract opportunity from disaster, allocate funds wisely and think creatively so that Metrozoo can grow even as it rebuilds. ■

by Barbara Brady, Toucan Talk Editor

What Makes A Great Business Partner?

Three Zoo Sponsors Exemplify The Ideal

Since the dawn of cause-related marketing, many businesses and nonprofit organizations have realized great benefits from working together. Nonprofits get funding while businesses earn goodwill, loyalty and exposure. But it's not a simple process and it takes a tremendous commitment of time and energy to make corporate sponsorships successful.

There's a special kind of business partner that's great to work with. They think through every detail of the event from promotion to decorations to follow-through. They know that our staff is limited and they provide hands-on help to organize and get things done.

The zoo is lucky to count many such sponsors among its friends. At the top of our list are **Dadeland Mall, Bloomingdale's** and **Sawgrass Mills**.

Dadeland Mall: Total Support

Throughout the '92 holiday season, Dadeland Mall provided fund raising and awareness of the zoo. They gave us prime retail space and made the zoo rebuilding theme part of their total communications effort. This included direct mail advertising, mall decorations, a large central display, information booths, wishing wells and flyers. Mall management covered all costs for the promotion and decorations. For the zoo's annual board dinner in December, they donated space, tables, chairs, decorations and staff to help with the event.

"Dadeland Mall didn't demand a lot from us," said volunteer services director Melanie Calvo.

There's a special kind of business partner that's great to work with.

They know that our staff is limited and they provide hands-on help to organize and get things done.

"They went 'above and beyond' for the zoo."

Bloomingdale's: Committed Through '93

Rather than layoff employees after the hurricane, **Bloomingdale's** sent its workers out into the community to help with disaster relief. Your zoo is one grateful beneficiary of that decision. Now Bloomingdale's has chosen the zoo for charitable involvement through 1993. They've already hosted dedicated Bloomingdale's shoppers on a benefit shopping spree to Boca Raton. They also plan special zoo benefits in conjunction with the grand re-opening of **Bloomingdale's at The Falls**.

Sawgrass Mills: Award Worthy

The Zoo Safari at Sawgrass Mills, was an outstanding event where children received toys, stickers and treats, met live zoo animals or participated in animal olympics throughout the mall. Sawgrass Mills used radio and print advertising to promote the event, installed mall decorations, including mall maps, covered all expenses and worked with merchants and other sponsors to generate additional donations.

The results of events like these are high traffic for merchants, satisfied customers, donations to the zoo and a grateful zoo staff. "When businesses do it right, everybody wins," said Cynthia Zeigler deputy director of the Zoological Society of Florida. "These were great events, they raised awareness of the zoo and it left everyone energized, instead of exhausted." ■



Marlene Hawkins and Cynthia Zeigler open the zoo shop at Dadeland Mall. After a successful holiday season the satellite shop closed in mid-January. Stop by the shop at the zoo on your next visit. —photo by Harvey Bilt

Bookworms

Gene Greenspan, President of the Zoo Docents

Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors: The Search for Who We Are by Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan
"This book talks about the universe, the interrelation of plants and animals, and about their common origin. I find it fascinating because it ties together man and the environment and shows how dependent man has been on the environment over millions of years."

Melanie Calvo, Director of Volunteer Services

The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff
"The Tao of Pooh illustrates an attitude, a way of looking at the world and seeing the beauty that exists in simple things. It is also a philosophy of non-interference; of bending with the world instead of trying to master it."

Silvia Gonzalez, Community Relations Manager

Earth in the Balance by Al Gore
"I am very interested in the new leadership in the White House and this book is a blueprint for how they will approach environmental issues. I want to be able to see if Mr. Gore and Mr. Clinton follow through on these ideas."

What Are You Reading?

Are you reading about the environment or conservation? If you'd like to share your latest read, send your name and daytime telephone number along with title and author and a brief description of why it's important to you to "Bookworms" c/o The Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33177-1499. If your suggestion is published in *Toucan Talk*, we'll give you a free zoo T-shirt.

*Thank You! Thank You!***A "super" market:**

Thanks to Publix Super Markets for assistance with distribution of Toucan Talk Extra, our 28-page hurricane commemorative edition.

Doing a decent deed for the docents:

Ryder Services, Inc. donated staff time, supplies and postage to produce and distribute important docent communications after Andrew. Docent Lennie Albert, a Ryder employee, facilitated this project.

6 Donor of a different stripe:

Rather than sending an ordinary change of address when they moved to new offices, custom home builder Brookman-Fels used the occasion to make clients aware of the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. Announcements featured an appeal to their clients for support. Brookman-Fels led the way with a substantial donation of their own.

Generators of assistance:

Besides sending employees from Orlando and Miami to help us after the storm, Texaco provided a generator through docent Becky Estes... Southern Bell donated and fueled a large generator that maintained the Animal Resource Center air conditioner until electricity was back on.

Jog memories:

Thanks again to Baptist Hospital, Happy Balloons and Miami Airport Marriott/Gambits for helping make Jungle Jog a success.

Maintaining:

Even as the rest of the zoo gets back to normal, the Maintenance Department, under the direction of Jorge Maura, will be busy for a long time replacing our fences, rebuilding exhibits and replanting the landscape. Look for future features about them in Toucan Talk.

A pin point:

The 1928 Jewelry Company is donating funds from its third annual "1928 Cares Program" to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. They have created an original and distinctive animal pin that is being distributed nationwide. For every pin sold, 1928 will make a \$1 donation to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. Look for these pins at the zoo shop and at fine department stores everywhere.

Watermelons On The Hoof

In reality, the tapir is related to the horse and the rhinoceros. Like them, the tapir feeds mainly on plants—not ants.

It is very easy to fall in love with tapirs. Even hardened zoo keepers find it difficult not to smile whenever they pass by them. Part of the tapir's charm lies in its comical walk, funny little tail and, of course, its proboscis (a.k.a. its nose.) A tapir uses its long nose to pull leaves and stems into its mouth. It also uses it as a snorkel when swimming underwater, a favorite activity. Tapirs produce a high-pitched whistling call that sounds more like a bird than an 800-pound mammal.

There are four species of tapirs. Of these, three are endangered and the other is very close to it. Our zoo has two species—the Malayan tapir (*Tapiris indicus*) from Asia (the largest of the species) and the Baird's tapir (*Tapiris bairdii*) from Central America.

Recently, we had the good fortune of births from both species. First to arrive was a female Baird's

"It's an anteater!"
"But it's more like a pig?"
"No, it's a baby elephant."
"Maybe a cross between an elephant and a pig."
Overheard at the tapir exhibit

born December 7, 1992. According to keeper **Barbara Judd**, there was some concern at first because it was a breach birth. For four-footed animals, this means the baby is born back feet first which sometimes can cause complications. Luckily, this birth went without a hitch!

Keeper **Laura Reynolds** witnessed our Malayan tapir giving birth on December 10, 1992. The baby, a male, was weak at first, but due to the great care given by his mother, the keepers and the veterinarian, he is now doing fine.

Baby tapirs are brown or black and covered with longitudinal spots and stripes, very similar in appearance to a watermelon. The fact that they are about the same size as a watermelon only heightens the effect. It is no surprise that zoo people sometimes call them "watermelons on the hoof."

As the babies get older, the spots and stripes gradually disappear and they take on their adult coloration. Malayan tapirs are black with a white saddle mark. Baird's tapirs are dark brown with a white throat.

On your next visit to the zoo, be sure to walk by our tapir exhibits and see our new watermelons... I mean tapirs. Visit soon because the watermelons are fading fast! ■

**by Damien Kong,
Education Specialist**



The baby Baird's tapir.

Barbara Crutchfield

Take A "Walk On The Wild Side"

Magill Reports On WCIX-TV

There's never a shortage of news at the zoo. Now you can get the latest twice weekly on **WCIX-TV's Action News At 4**. Metrozoo's **Ron Magill** presents "Walk on the Wild Side" every Monday and Friday. The three- to five-minute reports run between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. Expect spontaneous fun when Ron brings zoo animals to the news desk, and an insider's look at the zoo during pre-recorded location reports. Magill is teamed with weathercaster **Maria Genero** for studio and location segments.

Expanded news coverage on WCIX has made "Walk on the

Wild Side" possible, according to news director **Sue Kawalerski**. "WCIX is now able to look beyond hard news. People love the animals," she says, "and Metrozoo is very important to the community." ■



Magill and Genero on location with a Bateleur eagle.

Go On A Safari With Ron

Interworld African Safaris is working to create travel packages to benefit the zoo. **Ron Magill** is scheduled to lead a special safari to Africa in August 1993. Travelers on this safari will witness the annual migration of over 3 million zebras and wildebeest. Proceeds from the trip will go to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. If you would like to be a part of this adventure, call Interworld at 305-441-9087 or 1-800-**AFRICA5**. Special thanks to **Virgin Atlantic Airways** and **Kenya Airways** for stepping forward to help us out, too.

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Conservation Conversations 1993 Lectures Benefit Zoo Rebuilding Fund

Dr. Norman Myers Wednesday, March 10

Dr. Norman Myers was one of the first biologists to recognize and warn of the threat of extinctions posed by destruction of tropical rain forests. His book, *The Primary Source*, published in 1984, was as instrumental in awakening worldwide environmental consciousness as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* had been in the 1960s. Myers is indeed "the primary source" on biodiversity issues and on the status of global conservation efforts. He is a best-selling author of hundreds of popular papers and articles for publications ranging from *Nature* to *Life Magazine*. *The Gaia Atlas of Planet Management*, which he edited, is now distributed around the world in 11 languages.

Myers will appear Wednesday, March 10, at 8pm at FIU Graham Center.

Jane Goodall Friday, May 14

In her 1990 book *Through A Window* Jane Goodall writes:

"It is thirty years since I began to study chimpanzees. Thirty years during which there has been much change in the world, including the way in which we think about animals and the environment. My own personal journeys during this period, through the peaceful forests of Gombe and through the thorny jungles that have sprung up around issues of animal welfare and conservation, have led me a very long way from the naive young English girl who, with her mother, stepped so eagerly from the boat onto the Gombe beach... My journeyings among the chimpanzees have been enriched by experiences more exciting and rewarding than any we could have imagined, back at the start of it all. The harvest - the understanding that has come from long hours spent with our closest living relatives - has opened many widows onto a world all but unknown thirty years ago... The information gathered at Gombe, along with that from other study sites in Africa and from research on captive chim-

panzees, has enabled us to paint a fascinating portrait... an ever more detailed likeness of a highly complex being."

Ms. Goodall will paint a personal portrait of her beloved chimpanzees Friday, May 14, 1993 at 8 p.m. Location is to be announced.

Admission to each lecture is \$10/zoo member or \$15/non-member and includes a wine and cheese reception following the lecture where you will have the opportunity to meet the speakers. Seating is limited so call 251-5551 for reservations. ■



Old raggedy Flo was Jane's first mother subject in 1960 showing her so much about mother/child relationships. **Near 50**, she was too old to successfully raise **Flame** (pictured) who later died.

Staff Stuff



Juan Cueto joined us in January 1993. He is responsible for installation and management of our computer system. Before coming to the zoo, Cueto was a system engineer for Burger King and NCR. He is a Miami native and graduate of DeVry Institute of Technology in Atlanta. "I like everything about the zoo," he says. "I love working with computers, plus there are animals in the background. There's not a dull moment at the zoo."



Carol Gaudino, our new director of special events, has inaugurated cruise ships and helped organize professional golf and tennis championships among many other marketing, management and sales experiences. She comes to us from Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd. where she was special projects manager. She has also worked for the Lipton International Players Championship and IBM. She is a graduate of San Francisco State University.

Immediately upon turning off SW 152nd Street into the zoo entrance road, there are some multi-trunked trees growing in the median behind the "Metrozoo" sign. These are Queensland umbrella trees (*Schefflera actinophylla*), commonly known as scheffleras. This little grove is on a berm about six feet above the road. There are no walls or other tall vegetation to shield it from the elements. Yet, after Hurricane Andrew I had noticed that only one of nine original schefflera was destroyed. One tree had been uprooted (it is now erect and thriving thanks to a wooden tripod installed by our crack maintenance crew), but the other seven plants were in reasonably good shape.

What was going on there? Hadn't I heard several times, in my nine years in South Florida, that the schefflera is a weak-wooded, exotic tree that has as much chance of surviving a hurricane as Gennifer Flowers has of being invited to a White House dinner?

Today, our schefflera grove has an abundance of foliage. Although scheffleras are not noted for their shade, the massed effect of the eight survivors provides one of the leafiest, most pleasant canopies I've experienced since the big storm. All in all, not a bad performance in the face of hurricane winds. The scheffleras got me thinking about which other trees might be good hurricane survivors. Homeowners who lost trees to Andrew and who now face the prospect of relandscaping may wish to know this, too.

It will be some time before the figures on Andrew's damage to trees are in. Extensive scientific papers describing the ecological effects of Hurricanes Donna and Betsy were not published until about 18 months



Illustration: Damien Kong

The Wind In The Willows

(and in the Oaks, Palms, Loquats, etc.)

after the storms struck and we can expect the same lag time for Andrew data. However, since Andrew's winds were reported at 145 mph with 175 mph gusts, and Donna, which hit Florida's southwest coast in September of 1960, brought winds of 140 mph with 180 mph gusts, they are somewhat comparable.

In their 1962 report on Donna's damage, researchers **Frank Craighead** and **Vernon Gilbert** identified

seven native trees as conspicuously resistant to her winds. The magnificent seven were: cabbage palm, royal palm, live oak, mastic, strangler fig, lysiloma and slash pine. (Those of you wondering just what the heck a mastic is will find useful information on this and other South Florida plants in *Growing Native* by Richard Workman.)

Having reported the list of Donna-resistant trees, I feel duty bound to mention that while the slash pine (*Pinus elliotti* var. *densa*) may have fared well through Donna, it did not hold up as well through Andrew. Tens of thousands of pines were snapped in the Everglades National Park as were many trees in the pinelands around the zoo. My guess is that Andrew was a bigger pine killer than Donna because his eye passed directly over the most extensive pinelands; hers did not. All bets are off for any tree caught in the very heart of a tropical cyclone.

Still, that list of the seven "Donna Busters" is significant. It's obvious from looking around my own neighborhood, for instance, that cabbage palms fared well during Andrew. They deserve their status as our state tree.

How well the native lysiloma tree (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*) survived Andrew awaits further research, but its close relative, the Cuban tamarind (*Lysiloma sabicu*), is worthy of praise for its performance at Metrozoo. For example, of seven mature specimens bordering the sidewalk in front of the pygmy hippo display, only one sustained significant damage. That line of trees gives the hippo area a pleasant, dappled shade.

One more thing about scheffleras: In case you are impressed by the hurricane resistance of the schefflera grove I described earlier, and want to plant this species in your yard, don't. The Exotic Plant Pest Council of Florida has listed the schefflera as a Category II Plant, which means it has the potential to invade native habitats. In these difficult post-Andrew days, native hammocks and pinelands need to recover; propagating a potential invader won't help them. Be content to keep a potted schefflera in your home. And next time a hurricane strikes, dump the schefflera and place the pot over your head as you crouch in the bathroom! ■

by **Brett Bannor, Keeper**

Feast With The Beasts Dining Guide

American Express and dozens of area restaurants make Feast With The Beasts our most successful annual fund raising event. Help us say "thank you" by patronizing our generous patrons.

Afternoon Tea Gourmet Bake Shop
12727 So. Dixie Hwy. • Miami • 238-6696

BakeryCorp
Miami • 623-3838

Beverly Hills Cafe
17850 W. Dixie Hwy. • Miami Beach • 931-8767

Big City Fish
3015 Grand Ave. • Coconut Grove • 445-2489

Bijan's Restaurant on the Miami River
64 SE 4th St. • Miami • 381-7778

The Bistro
2611 Ponce de Leon • Coral Gables • 442-9671

Cafe La Llave/Gavina Coffee Company
8240 NW 68th St. • Miami • 477-4070

Cafe Tulipe
9700 Collins Ave. • Bal Harbour • 861-8556

Cafe TuTu Tango
3015 Grand Ave. • Coconut Grove • 529-2222

Captain's Tavern Seafood Restaurant
9621 So. Dixie Hwy. • Miami • 665-7272

Capitano's Tuscan Grille
9801 So. Dixie Hwy. • Miami • 666-1142

Casa Juancho
2436 SW 8th St. • Miami • 642-2452

Casa Rolandi
1930 Ponce de Leon • Coral Gables • 444-2187

Chef Allen's
19088 NE 29th Ave. • Aventura • 935-2900

Christy's
3101 Ponce de Leon • Coral Gables • 446-1400

Cisco's Cafe
5911 NW 36th St. • Miami • 871-2764

Creative Tastes Catering
7118 SW 117th Ave. • Miami • 598-1575

Fontainebleau Hilton Restaurants
4441 Collins Ave. • Miami Beach • 538-2000

El Novillo Restaurant
6830 SW 40th St. • Miami • 284-8417

Florencia Restaurant
100 SE 4th St. • Miami • 579-8651

Giacosa Ristorante
394 Giralda Ave. • Coral Gables • 445-5858

Godiva Chocolatier
Dadeland Mall • Miami • 662-2429

The Grand Cafe at the Grand Bay Hotel
2669 So. Bayshore Dr. • Coconut Grove • 858-9600

Haagen Dazs Ice Cream
1550 S. Dixie Hwy. • Miami • 667-1728

Hotel Sofitel
5800 Blue Lagoon Dr. • Miami • 264-4888

Hooligan's Liquor Locker
13135 SW 89th Pl. • Miami • 251-8282

Hooligan's Pub and Oyster Bar
9555 So. Dixie Hwy. • Miami • 667-9673

Island Oasis of Miami, Inc.
4538 SW 71st Ave. • Miami • 665-9796

Janjo's
3131 Commodore Plaza • Coconut Grove • 445-5030

Joe's Stone Crab
227 Biscayne Street • Miami Beach • 673-0365

JohnMartins
253 Miracle Mile • Coral Gables • 445-3777

La Notte Ristorante
65 Alhambra Plaza • Coral Gables • 461-3040

Las Puertas
148 Giralda Ave. • Coral Gables • 442-0708

Los Ranchos Restaurants
125 SW 107th Ave. • Miami • 221-9367

Malaga Restaurant
740 SW 8th St. • Miami • 858-4224

The Olive Garden Italian Restaurants
18101 Biscayne Blvd. • North Miami • 935-5742

Outback Steakhouse
13145 SW 89th Pl. • Miami • 254-4456

Parrot Cafe at Parrot Jungle and Gardens
11000 SW 57th Ave. • Miami • 666-4931

Pi's Place
100 SE 2nd St. • Miami • 539-7090

Prezzo's
8888 SW 136th St. • Miami • 234-1010

Restaurant St. Michel
162 Alcazar Ave. • Coral Gables • 444-1666

Roasters 'N Toasters
11293 So. Dixie Hwy. • Miami • 251-4848

Ristorante La Bussola
264 Giralda Ave. • Coral Gables • 445-8783

Two Sisters
50 Alhambra Dr. • Coral Gables • 441-1234

The Spirit
7250 NW 11th St. • Miami • 262-7020

Unicorn Village
Waterway Shoppes • 3565 NE 207th St. • Aventura • 931-1935

Valenti's
5775 Sunset Dr. • South Miami • 667-0421

Victor's Cafe
2340 SW 32nd Ave. • Miami • 445-1313

Beverage Providers:

The House of Seagram

Beverage Canners

Hiram Walker and Sons, Inc.

Silver Eagle Distributors

Southern Wine and Spirits



Correction:

In our summary of zoo members' benefits in the last issue of Toucan Talk we incorrectly stated that zoo members receive a discount on paddle-boat rides. Zoo members and visitors may purchase a combination pass for four children's rides that is good for one year following purchase. Ride passes purchased in 1992 before Hurricane Andrew will be extended through 1993. For more information, visit the ride ticket booth at the zoo.

Springtime Fun Days

Sponsored by Nabisco

To celebrate spring, we've planned two special, fun-filled days at the zoo Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by Nabisco.

Children are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals to the zoo. They will be part of a children's parade around the zoo led by one of the zoo animals. The parade will culminate at the concert field where **Miami Children's Hospital** will give "check ups" to the toy animals. Special entertainment and other surprises will be featured during the weekend.

For more information, give us a call at 255-5551. ■

**Reagan can't wait
till Springtime Fun Days
April 10 and 11 at the Zoo.**



The Earth In Literature

The narrator of *Times Arrow* by Martin Amis (1991, Harmony Books, New York) is living life backwards. To him, the Earth literally operates like a film running in reverse.

"It's all strange to me. I know I live on a fierce and magical planet, which sheds or surrenders rain, or even flings it off in whipstroke after whipstroke, which fires out bolts of electric gold into the firmament at 186,000 miles per second, which in a single shrug of its tectonic plates can erect a city in half an hour."

Contributions Welcome

In novels, poems or magazine articles we often find Earth, a specific locale or a habitat described in the words of the author or a character. If you'd like to share such a description of our planet, send title, author, chapter and page reference with your name and daytime phone number to: "The Earth In Literature," c/o The Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33177-1499. If your suggestion is published in *ToucanTalk*, we'll send you a free zoo T-shirt.

Wild Florida

"Conservation begins in your own back yard," so the saying goes, and though zoo's strive to conserve many endangered exotic species, we should not take for granted the flora and fauna of South Florida.

Our state is one of the most unique environments in North America. Extending hundreds of miles into the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, Florida has a wide variety of habitats and climate zones that are home to plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. This uniqueness has also made Florida one of the most desirable places to live. As our population grows, intelligent decisions must be made by informed people regarding future development of Florida's limited resources. From pine and oak forests, to the Everglades, to the only living coral reefs in the U.S., the list of Florida species facing extinction or becoming threatened today is staggering: 90 species, one of the highest numbers of any state in the U.S.

"Wild Florida" will be a regular feature of *ToucanTalk*. We hope to provide zoo supporters with a better understanding and appreciation of Florida ecology so that when you visit the zoo and participate in our programs you can begin to see that the wildlife of Florida is affected by the same pressures that endanger species everywhere. We pledge to work with zoo supporters to explore the issues and find the ideas that can lead to local and global solutions.

What Will Become Of Our Red Cockaded Woodpeckers?

Since Hurricane Andrew, we have heard a lot about the destruction of vegetation, and how the healing process has begun. Yes, the oak, gumbo limbo, pine and other native trees are coming back, but hurricane devastation, combined with previous habitat loss, will have a long term impact on a number of wild species.

One of the species affected by the hurricane is the red cockaded woodpecker, known by ornithologists as *Picoides borealis*. It is one of nine woodpecker species that share the same genus. A relative, the downy

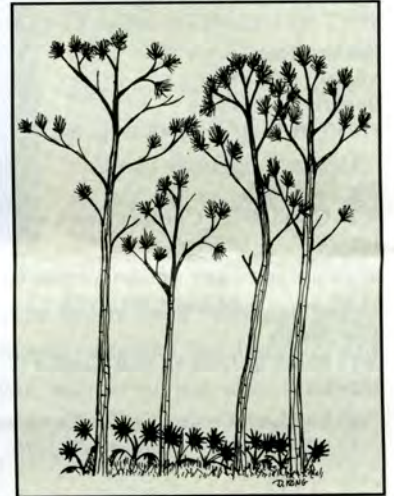
woodpecker, can often be seen on our zoo grounds, but it has been many years since we've seen a red cockaded here. This bird's fate is directly tied to the land. Red cockaded woodpeckers need mature stands of yellow pine forest, a habitat that

has been steadily and rapidly dwindling since the 1940s. The result of this habitat decline, which continues today, was the decline of the red cockaded. In 1970, it was declared an endangered species.

The red cockaded woodpecker is a small bird, about 7-1/4 inches from beak to tail feathers. It has a white and black, barred back, black-flecked flanks and

black bars on its white outer tail feathers. It has a large white check pad and a narrow black band, separated by white, from its black cap that runs from the eye to its nape. Adult males have small flecks of red feathers, called "cockades", on both posterior sides of their heads, thus the name red cockaded. If you were to look through good binoculars at close range you might be able to see the red of a male, but usually it is impossible to distinguish the male from the female in the field.

The downy woodpecker, though similar in appearance, lacks the red cockade, is smaller (approximately 5-3/4 inches) and has a mostly white back, compared to the red cockaded woodpecker's barred back.



Illustrations: Damien Kong

Unique Behaviors Affect Habitat Requirements

Though still widely distributed from eastern Texas through South Florida, north to southern Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky, the red cockaded's range has become restricted because of the loss of old growth yellow pine throughout the southern U.S. Two behaviors unique to the red cockaded woodpecker make this especially dangerous. First, the red cockaded is not a migratory bird; it establishes permanent residency when it finds suitable nesting habitat. It also creates clans or family units that consist of a breeding pair, hatchlings and "helper birds" from the previous year's hatch. Helper birds are usually males because females

find mates and set up their own colonies. In Florida, nesting occurs between April and June.

The second and more significant factor is this woodpecker's exclusive use of live trees for nest sites. Although more than eight species of yellow pine have been identified as potential nest trees for this species, the pines need to be 60 years or older. Only then is their girth large enough to support nest cavities for family units without killing the tree itself.

Red cockaded nest in the same tree for a number of years, and once a suitable area has been found a family will build multiple nests in different trees to create a "nest colony." Some colonies have been found to contain as many as 30 trees, although the average is six to eight. It is estimated that a minimum of 4,200 acres (6.5 square miles) of habitat are required to support one genetically self-sustaining population – approximately 500 animals. That may sound small, but since it must be old growth, mature forest, the possibilities narrow considerably.

Suddenly, They're Gone?

Since 1980, **Deborah Jansen** of the National Park Service out of Big Cypress National Forest has been monitoring eight red cockaded colonies in an area called Lostman's Pines, south of U.S. 41 in Collier County. Over the last 12 years the number of active colonies has declined. Just prior to Hurricane Andrew, only three colonies, occupying 36 trees, were active.

After the storm, 33 trees were surveyed. The results are sobering: two trees were uprooted, seven were snapped at the base, 15 were snapped at the nest site and five sustained minor damage. Only four

The list of Florida species facing extinction, or becoming threatened today, is staggering: 90 species. This is one of the highest numbers of any state in the U.S.

trees remained intact and undamaged. Of these four, none contained active nests. Despite the fact that the red cockaded is still surviving throughout its range, these data make it quite clear how fast a species can reach the brink of disappearance within an isolated area.

The pine forests preferred by red cockaded woodpeckers are usually clear of brush or hardwood understory; in other words, typical pine palmetto habitat. Many of our cities and farms are built on this habitat which has historically been viewed as "low value" because it does not offer the sweeping vistas or overwhelming topography that we tend to set aside for preservation. We are learning, however, that it is just as diverse, complex and

sensitive as any ecosystem and worthy of preserving.

Although its habitat may be underappreciated, the red cockaded woodpecker is a barometer, warning us to ease the pressure on our local environments. Continued development in South Florida, if properly managed, can help prevent the demise of some unique animals. Efforts by South Florida residents to conserve old growth pinelands will not only help this bird, but will also improve the quality of life for numerous other species, including humans, that call the pine palmetto habitat their home. ■

by **Bill Zeigler, General Curator**

Call To Action

Action Step 1: Learn More

The federal government has produced a document entitled the "Endangered Species Recovery Plan, Red Cockaded Woodpecker." You can obtain a copy from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 6205 S. Meridian, Tallahassee, FL 32301, or from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 117 Newins-Ziegler Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0307.

Action Step 2: See For Yourself

If you would be interested in a field trip to explore pine palmetto habitat, contact Damien Kong at 255-5551.



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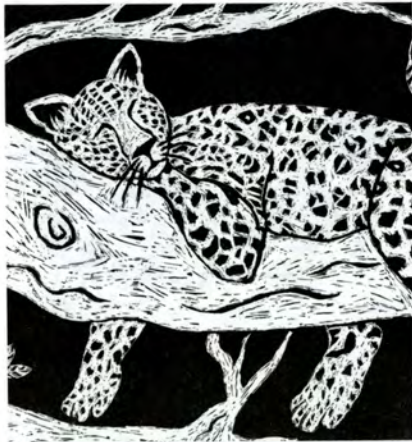
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Zoo Visitor Information
251-0400



Shop Talk

Did you know that you can shop at the zoo even if you don't have time for a visit? If you are shopping for someone who loves animals, this is the place to find a perfect gift. Parking and admission to the shop are free. (And so is a glimpse of the flamingos who are now back on the lake!)

Calendar Of Zoo Events

Wednesday, March 10

An Evening In The Rain Forest

8:00 p.m. – FIU Graham Center

Cost: \$10/zoo members; \$15/non-members

Norman Myers will share insights from decades of international field study of rain forest conservation. Wine and cheese reception follows lecture. Call 255-5551 for reservations.

New Date! Wednesday, March 24

Sixth Annual Gorilla Golf Classic

The Links at Key Biscayne

Tee off: 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$150/person

The day includes golf, lunch, raffle and prizes, and ends with a reception for all participants. Pre-registration by March 17 is requested. Call 255-5551 for details.

Saturday & Sunday, April 10 & 11

Nabisco Springtime Fun Days

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. throughout the zoo.

Free to zoo members. Free to non-members with zoo admission. A special day for kids sponsored by Nabisco. Bring your toy animals (no pets, please), be part of a zoo parade and enjoy lots of other special events and prizes. For more information, call 255-5551.

Friday, May 14

An Evening With Jane Goodall

8:00 p.m. – Location to be announced

Cost: \$10/zoo members; \$15/non-members

Come and meet the world's foremost chimpanzee expert and advocate. Wine and cheese reception follows the lecture. Call 255-5551 for reservations.

Summer Programs

Summer Camp is happening at the zoo! Fun, challenging programs for preschool through high school students are being planned. If you would like registration information, call 255-5551. Details will also be published in the next issue of *Toucan Talk*.

Ongoing Programs:

Animal Encounters

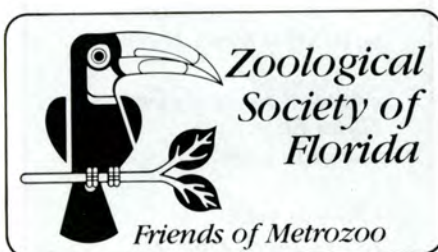
Informative programs featuring live animals that we've developed especially for schools, libraries, nursing homes and other groups. Animal Encounters are presented by Zoo Docents and are suitable for ages 4-adult. For scheduling information, call 255-5551.

Speakers Bureau

The zoo speakers bureau has created a new program about what's been happening at the zoo since Hurricane Andrew. This colorful slide presentation is geared toward civic organizations and service clubs. We'd love to come to your next business luncheon or meeting. Call 255-5551 for details.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to join the Zoo Docents and help present educational programs and tours, or if you're interested in working as a membership, fund raising or gift shop volunteer, we'd welcome your help. Call us at 255-5551.



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